

USPN 10/605,830
Art Unit 3749
Amdt dated 01/025/2005
Reply to Office action of 10/25/2004

Remarks

The allowance of claims 2, 4-8, 10, and 12- 16 is noted with appreciation.

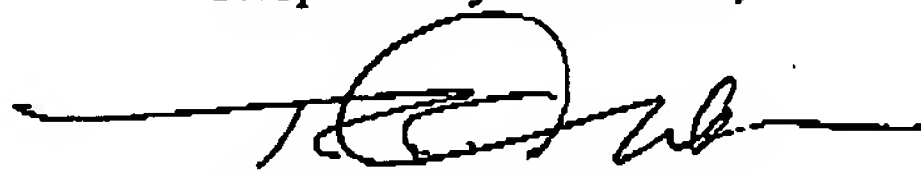
In accordance with the principles of the invention, the energy contained in the flash stream created by the blowdown water is recovered rather than being lost to the atmosphere. In the preferred embodiment, this heat is transferred to the feedwater. However, as noted in the last sentence of paragraph 27, it is also possible to condense this steam in a "separate mass of water contained in an open vented tank". Claim 1 is worded in such a way as to cover both the preferred embodiment and this noted option, although claim 2 is specifically directed to the embodiment where this heat energy is transferred to the feedwater.

With regard to the remaining energy in the blowdown water, it should be appreciated that the water used to replenish the water in the boiler is referred to as the feedwater. As the supply of feedwater is depleted, this is replaced by fresh water, referred to as make-up water. In the preferred embodiment, the remaining energy in the blowdown water is transferred to the make-up water, which as it enters the feedwater tank then becomes the "feedwater". In this way, the remaining energy in the blowdown water is eventually transferred to the feedwater, although it is not critical in the broadest aspect of the invention that the blowdown water energy is transferred to the feedwater via the make-up water. Other ways of transferring the energy to the feedwater could be envisaged by persons skilled in the art. Claims 1 and 9 merely specify in general terms that essential feature that the energy must end up in the feedwater, but deliberately without specifying how it gets there.

The wording of the claims has been clarified, and with the above explanation in mind, it is believed that the claims are now clear.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are thus earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 CFR 1.8)			Docket No. 15441-US
Applicant(s): Stewart WOOD			
Serial No. 10/605,830	Filing Date 29 October 2003	Examiner WILSON, Gregory A.	Group Art Unit 3749
Invention: BLOWDOWN HEAT RECOVERY PROCESS			
<p>I hereby certify that this <u>RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 25, 2004</u> (Identify type of correspondence)</p> <p>is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademarks Office (Fax. No. <u>1-703-872-9306</u>)</p> <p>on <u>24 January 2005</u> (Date)</p> <p>Richard J. Mitchell 34,519 (Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)</p> <p> (Signature)</p> <p>Note: Each paper must have its own certification of mailing.</p>			

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